



File Code: 1950; 2700
Date: September 24, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

This project announcement letter serves to initiate scoping, "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed" (40 CFR § 1501.7). Scoping is required for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that would appear to be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (36 CFR 220.4(e)(1)). I request your input on the Oklahoma Ranger Districts' Choctaw Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CEC) proposed authorization described below.

The Forest Service proposes to amend CEC's existing permit to allow an underground 3-phase power line off existing CEC aerial power line (area of potential effect of 150' in length by 10' in width (0.03 acre)) within National Forest System (NFS) lands in Section 26, Township 4 South, Range 24 East, McCurtain County, OK. Permit would allow placement of 45' wooden pole in center of existing aerial power line right of way, approximately 15' south of Forest Service Road 52682, to tie in to aerial power line; then trench 24" wide by 4' deep (to bury power line in three (3) separate conduits) between wooden pole and McCurtain County Rural Water District #5's water facility site in a WNW direction across NFS lands. This amendment would provide electrical service to current and future customers west of US Highway 259.

Unless scoping identifies extraordinary circumstances, this project is within a category of actions that is excluded from documentation in an EA or an EIS; only a decision will be documented. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jona Tucker by phone at (580) 494-6402 ext. 120, by email at jona.tucker@usda.gov, or address written comments to District Ranger at 111 South State Highway 259A, Broken Bow, OK 74728. Your comments would be most helpful if received by October 8, 2020.

Sincerely,

PATTI TURPIN
District Ranger

Enclosures

